

Spotlight on the Board

Notes from the District 15 School Board Meeting

March 22nd, 2006

Spotlight on the Board is a collection of notes taken at the District 15 School Board meetings by Pleasant Hill PTAs' District 15 liaison, Susan Quinn. They are meant to help parents and staff who are unable to attend the Board meetings on a regular basis to keep informed about the issues and plans affecting the district. Below are the highlights from the March "Committee of the Whole" meeting, intended primarily for discussion.

This meeting in particular was called by the Board to provide a more open dialogue format to hear from parents about issues at the schools. Each of the PTA presidents was asked by the Board to collect ideas from their parents about issues at their schools and present them to the Board.

Mary Podjasek, PTA Council President, presented to the Board a list of issues each school PTA developed, grouped by items most frequently mentioned (see www.phpta.org for the full list). She reviewed the top ten most frequently mentioned items.

Top 10 issues presented to Board (frequency mentioned):

1. Full time social worker (13)
2. Reinstate field trips (10)
3. Full time + part time LRC (10)
4. Full time Bldg Asst (8)
5. Reduce class size (8)
6. Restore Clubs (5)
7. Increase art instruction (4)
8. Increase program assistants (4)
9. Teach a second language in elementary school (3)
10. Invest in technology (computer software/hardware) (3)

PTA presidents from individual schools (including Willow Bend, Plum Grove Jr. High, Carl Sandburg Jr. High, Whiteley, Winston Campus Jr. High, Virginia Lake, Sanborn, Jane Addams, Lake Louise, The Learning Academy, Sundling Jr. High, and Lincoln) presented issues important to their individual schools. Issues presented ranged from bus routes, custodial subs, late start times, block scheduling, unique needs of special ed, and encouraging principals to stay, among others. The administration said they would get more information on costs of changing bus routes for late start, and information about improving bus routes for the Learning Academy for the next Board meeting.

Full March 22nd meeting notes, as well as previous *Spotlight on the Board* meeting notes, can be found at www.phpta.org. Next Board meeting is Wednesday, April 5th, 2006, 7 pm at Sundling Jr. High – this is a "Committee of the Whole" meeting. Email questions directly to Board members or to Superintendent McKanna (McKannaR@ccsd15.net).